

Welcome to The Compass



A Message from the Director

Since 1938, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Department have diligently fulfilled their charge to “preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage” Idaho’s cherished wildlife resource. With the support of Idaho hunters, trappers, and anglers, they have done an outstanding job. That must continue.

But a lot has changed in the last 60 years. Growth, development, and technology have changed the land and the way people use it. People’s attitudes have shifted, and while the vast majority still deeply care about fish and wildlife, they value fish and wildlife differently. Our stewardship has to be responsive to these changes if the Department and Commission are to remain one of the top fish and wildlife agencies in the nation. But one thing that isn’t going to change is our commitment to Idaho’s hunters, anglers, and trappers.

In recent years, rare species protection has taken many wildlife issues off the sports page and put them on the front page. New demands have strapped the staff, while new funding sources have not emerged. Sportsmen are concerned that their license and tag fees should not be diverted to pay for rare species protection and wildlife diversity programs. We agree and are committed to finding new sources of money for these programs.

The strategic plan that follows—our Compass—will guide us toward excellence in maintaining our fish and wildlife heritage and providing services to people. This plan establishes the major directions for the future and describes what successful fish and wildlife management looks like. This plan also describes *how* we will work toward excellence: by providing for public input and feedback to help us make course corrections as we move forward. After all, the same thing can be said for a good strategic plan as for a rewarding life: it is not the destination, but the manner of traveling.



Steven M. Heffner



The Four Cardinal Directions

This document was prepared for the following people:

- Idaho hunters, anglers, and trappers
- Idaho citizens
- State, local, tribal, and federal governments
- The Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Department

A Useful Tool

This plan is intended to:

- Clearly convey the Department's management goals and how they will be achieved.
- Assist the Fish and Game Commission in developing policies, priorities, and direction.
- Provide overall direction to Department staff in developing and implementing fish and wildlife programs.
- Assist others in developing plans and implementing programs that are compatible with fish and wildlife conservation and management.
- Encourage a cooperative approach in addressing fish and wildlife issues in Idaho.